

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Various of the claims are amended herein.

Claims 3, 9, 14-15, 26-27, 35-37, 45-46, 56-58 and 67 are canceled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-13, 16-25, 28-34, 38-44, 47-55, 59-66 and 68-92 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 32-61 UNDER 35 USC 101 FOR FAILING TO DEFINE A CONCRETE, USEFUL AND TANGIBLE RESULT

Independent claim 32 recites "implementing a user requested transaction". Clearly, this is a concrete, useful and tangible result.

Independent claim 41 recites "automatically seeking approval ...". Clearly, this is a concrete, useful and tangible result.

Independent claim 59 recites using a shared executable hosted system "to implement a user requested transaction". Clearly, this is a concrete, useful and tangible result.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-92 UNDER 35 USC 103 AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER OJHA IN VIEW OF CAMERON

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles containing business rules. As recited, for example, in claim 1, a plurality of users each are associated with a particular organizational profile.

Further, as recited, for example, in claim 1, a user requested transaction is implemented on a shared executable hosted e-procurement system by using the business rules stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3, a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles 312, 314 and 316 contain business rules. A plurality of users 301, 302 and 304 are associated with the organizational profiles. A user requested transaction is implemented on an e-procurement system 300 by using the business rules stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.

In various embodiments of the present invention, the e-procurement system is a shared executable hosted system. A shared executable hosted e-procurement system is a system in

which multiple buyers from multiple organizations can use the system without having to use multiple executables. See, for example, FIG. 2, and the disclosure on page 16, lines 8-10, of the specification.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 2, a plurality of users 204, 206, 208 share a single executable 202. Such operation with a single executable is significantly different than systems which use different executables for different users, such as the conventional system shown in FIG. 1C.

Please note that claim 1 is amended to recite the hosted e-procurement system as being a "shared executable" hosted e-procurement system.

Ojha's e-procurement system describes a process of proposing, receiving and accepting bids between buyers and sellers. Ojha's system provides an electronic commerce solution by which individual buyers may negotiate online in a traditional and non-bidding manner with one or more sellers. See, for example, column 2, lines 40-43, of Ojha.

More specifically, Ojha discloses a negotiation method between one buyer and one or more sellers on the Internet where an individual buyer may negotiate online in a traditional and non-bidding manner with one or more sellers. A buyer conducts a number of simultaneous negotiations with different sellers for the same product or even multiple products. See, for example, column 4, lines 28-30, of Ojha. When an agreement is reached on any one of the bids, all other negotiations for the products are automatically terminated. See, for example, column 4, line 39-41, of Ojha.

As indicated above, the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to "dynamically maintaining organizational profiles". Ojha does not disclose dynamically maintained organizational profiles.

As indicated above, the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile of a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles. Ojha does not disclose users being associated with organizational profiles.

As indicated above, the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to a user requested transaction being implemented by using the business rules contained in an organizational profile associated with the user. Ojha does not disclose this manner of implementing a user transaction.

Further, as indicated above, the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1, relates to a "shared executable" hosted e-procurement system. Ojha does not disclose a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that FIGS. 1 and 2 of Ojha teach that the e-procurement system of Ojha is a shared executable hosted e-procurement system among many buyers and sellers. However, it is respectfully submitted that FIG. 1 of Ojha merely shows the wide variety of hardware configurations by which buyers and sellers can be connected to the Internet such as by a router 110, by a network 112, by a modem 126 or by a file server 116. FIG 2 of Ojha merely shows the steps from the buyer side needed to complete a transaction such as saving the buyer's product information to a shopping list 206, placing bids to sellers 210 and negotiation steps between buyers and sellers 214. Neither of these figures of Ojha disclose a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

The above arguments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the arguments would be helpful in understanding various difference of various other claims over Ojha. For example, various of the other claims recite "organizational profiles", users being associated with organizational profiles, a shared executable e-procurement system, etc.

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Please note that claim 2 is amended to specifically recite that the business rules contained in the organizational profiles include workflow rules in which approval is sought from multiple parties in a sequence. See also claims 13, 25, 34, 44, 65, 75, 85 and 88. It is respectfully submitted that Ojha does not disclose or suggest such workflow rules.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that FIGS. 13E-13K of Ojha teach creating new business rules. However, it is respectfully submitted that Ojha does not teach organizational profiles, where the organization profile contain business rules, and the business rules specifically include workflow rules in which approval is sought from multiple parties in sequence.

Cameron describes an order entry system for taking and processing orders in a fast, efficient and simple manner. See, for example, column 1, line 66, through column 2, line 1, of Cameron.

Examiner asserts that Cameron teaches an e-procurement system where the business rules include workflow. The Examiner specifically refers to FIG. 4D and column 7, lines 13-21, of Cameron. However, it is respectfully submitted that Figure 4D and column 7, lines 13-21, of Cameron, simply illustrate the relationships of the data tables in the order structure 18 of Cameron. Accordingly, the relationships of the data tables provide information relating to the

order such as the order's shipment method, billing information. Cameron does not discuss workflow rules in which approval is sought from multiple parties in sequence.

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Please note that claim 5 is amended to specifically recite that the business rules store information on integration preferences determining how the shared executable hosted e-procurement system interacts with the application system for a specific user or organizational profile. See also claims 76 and 81. See, for example, Table III on page 32 of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that Ojha does not disclose or suggest such features.

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Claim 10 specifically recites the business rules of an organizational profile including characteristics and approvers of those characteristics. See also claims 25, 28, 41 and 62.

It is respectfully submitted that Ojha does not disclose or suggest such features.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

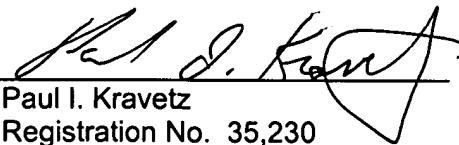
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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